

October 13, 2009

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on October 13, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Callen*, Cardella, Draper, Kraemer,
Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioners Craft and Thomas

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand
Commissioner Callen* (arrived at 9:34 a.m.)

FLAG SALUTE

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cardella provided the following inspiration:

My daily choices are driven by a strong sense of purpose.

I work at what I love to do

I am wholehearted and authentic in my actions.

There is a clear alignment between what I say my priorities are and how I spend my time.

I invest time in making a difference to others in the world.

I put my whole self into all that I do.

I know what I want to be remembered for.

Daily Breeze October 13, 2009

Former Commissioner Griffiths provided the following inspiration:

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

Commissioner Draper provided the following inspiration:

I'm a great believer in luck and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Cardella seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of October 13, 2009. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Callen*, Craft and Thomas)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Cardella seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of September 8, 2009. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Callen*, Craft and Thomas)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Former Commissioner Griffith

Sandy Martinez, Volunteer Supervisor at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center

Karen Fitch

Bobbe Callen

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the gym at Wilson Park will be renamed the Dee Hardison Sports Center. She also reported the approval of the concept of using certificates of participation to purchase the land on Crenshaw Boulevard for the new Transit Center. She announced that there will be three candidate forums for the November 3rd Torrance Unified School Board District election: October 15 at Southwood, October 19 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library and October 22 at North High School. Commissioner Kraemer informed the Commission that it was possible to sign up to automatically receive mail-in ballots for each election.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the candidate forum on October 19 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library would be repeated on CitiCable from October 21 to November 2, 2009.

B. Housing

None

C. Health

Commissioner Cardella announced that Los Angeles County has a phone service number (211) that provides information on health and human service programs for Los Angeles County.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that a flu shot clinic was held on Monday, October 5, and that 317 people were served with 260 flu vaccines and 57 flu mists, but that many people were turned away because there was a shortage of vaccines. She stated that the additional Los Angeles County flu clinics will have adequate vaccines available and that the Torrance Health Center can provide vaccines free of charge.

Commissioner Cardella announced that the Successful Aging Expo will be held on Saturday, October 17 in Long Beach from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

D. Transportation

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Transit Department has an ongoing marketing campaign to display clever messages on destination bus signs.

E. Cable

None

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Cardella reported the following Focal Point statistics for the month of:

September 2009

Total number of documented calls:	50	Total number of callbacks:	42
Miscellaneous calls:	81	Total number of walk-ins:	22
Total number of calls received:	131		
Of the documented calls:			
46% were in regard to Housing		24% were for in home services	
24% were for Transportation			

Commissioner Cardella also reported that Focal Point participated in two health fairs, at which, they received several requests for services.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand reported statistics she received from the Los Angeles County Adult Protective Services of reported cases of elder abuse for individuals ages 65 and older living in the city of Torrance: in 2008 there were 236 cases reported and in 2009, through September 16, there were 178 cases reported.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Lamplighters Group, a support group for victims of incest, childhood sexual abuse, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault, has opened a chapter in Torrance and meets on the last Sunday of the month.

APPROVAL OF CANCELANATION OF DECEMBER MEETING

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino asked for a motion on going "dark" for the meeting on December 8, 2009.

MOTION: Commissioner Cardella moved and Commissioner Draper seconded, to cancel the December 8, 2009 meeting of the Commission. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioners Craft and Thomas)

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Kraemer reminded everyone to vote for the School Board elections.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that the Commissioner training will be held on November 2 and that training certification is only valid for two years.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the Draft General Plan - Environmental Impact Workshop will be held on October 14 and will focus on housing.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino distributed a copy of the ten questions that will be on the 2010 census, which will be mailed out in March 2010.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the City Council approved the Commission on Aging Annual Report on October 6, 2009.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that daylight savings time ends on November 1.

Former Commissioner Griffith announced, that as a cost savings measure, the County Board of Supervisors has decided to combine the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council with

the Los Angeles Older Adults Group and consolidate the total number of members from 120 to 50 by the end of June. She stated that funding cuts will further impact services such as the In Home Support Services, elder abuse protection, nutrition education and medical transport inspection.

Volunteer Supervisor Martinez stated that there are 458 adult volunteers at the Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center and that there is program for seniors called Company Call, which checks in with home bound seniors by phone, Monday through Friday.

Commissioner Cardella distributed literature from Vickie Hershberger of the Torrance Memorial Medical Center regarding: flu shots and flu prevention, healthy food preparation and breast cancer survival.

Commissioner Cardella announced that there will be a free senior day at the Holiday Festival at the Torrance Memorial Medical Center on December 3, 2009.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that Torrance Memorial Medical Center would host the Great American Shakeout earthquake drill on October 15.

PRESENTATION: ELDER ABUSE AND FRAUD- Dave Crespin, Torrance Police Department

Dave Crespin of the Torrance Police Department stated that Torrance was the fourth safest city in Los Angeles County and the twenty third safest city in the United States with a population over 100,000. He introduced Sergeant Jennifer Uyeda, of Torrance Police Community Affairs Department.

Officer Crespin detailed the changes in the police department: a fixed schedule beat system, with the same officers on the same shifts, more officers on duty in the most needed times, an expanded Community Affairs Division, home security inspection checks, home vacation checks, expanded Neighborhood Watch and disaster preparedness programs.

Officer Crespin announced that you can register your email address with the Police Department and receive crime alerts and email notifications or go to their website for the information. He stated that the Community Affairs Department can provide speakers to organizations to speak on a variety of topics: child safety, internet scams and burglaries.

Officer Crespin stated that one of the biggest problems for the police is that people often don't want to get involved and place a call, if they see a problem or something seems suspicious. He stated that the latest trends in crime for Torrance were: residential burglaries where the thieves knock and then enter through unlocked doors and windows, stolen vehicles using porcelain chips to break the windows, scams where two people pose as workmen, gain access to your house under the pretense of inspection and then steals items while you are occupied, and phone call scams about missed jury duty. He added that there is an internet scam with a phony Bank of America logo.

Officer Crespin stated that everyone should practice personal safety, by paying attention to one's surroundings.

He stated that the phone number for the Community Affairs Department is: 310-328-3456 and the website addresses are: www.torranceca.gov or www.police.torranceca.gov.

Responding to questions from the Commissioners, Officer Crespin stated that multi language presenters are available for Neighborhood Watch programs and that Community Lead Officer Program and ATO (area traffic) programs are available to handle ongoing problems.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Karen Fitch presented her documentation concerning her problems with the Dial-a-Taxi service in September. She stated that she has also contacted Jim Mills and Kim Turner of the Transit Department and Ted Simons, Traffic.

Sandy Martinez, Volunteer Supervisor at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center stated that she also had heard of problems with the taxi service.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that it is the Transit Department that is responsible for the taxi program. After discussion, it was decided to invite Kim Turner and Jim Mills from Transit Department to the next meeting to address the taxi service issue. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she will call Jim Mills to invite him to the November meeting and then inform Karen Fitch of the agenda for the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as Submitted November 10, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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